

Norway maple, Japanese barberry, and Burning bush
are considered invasive in New Hampshire because

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)



Acer platanoides 'Crimson King'

Norway maple is native to Continental Europe/Norway. It was first introduced to North America in the 1860's for cultivation as an ornamental landscape plant. It is highly adaptable and tolerant of most conditions including draught, acidic and calcareous soils, and exposure to road salt. It thrives in most landscapes within USDA Hardiness Zones 3-7, and produces a very high number of viable seeds (samaras), which allows it to spread by wind very rapidly and across spatial gaps. Here in New Hampshire, as well as other New England states, it has escaped from areas where it was intentionally planted and it now occurs in many natural habitats throughout the state. It is believed that the roots of this tree excrete a chemical (allelopathic) that inhibits the growth of any other species that tries to germinate or become established under its canopy.

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Berberis thunbergii in the wild

Japanese barberry is native to Southern Europe and central China. It was imported into the U.S. in the late 1800's as an ornamental shrub. It is extremely adaptable to most soil conditions and sun light exposure. It grows well in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-8, and produces numerous seeds. Its seeds are contained in red fleshy fruits, which are very attractive to birds and wildlife as a food source. This is its primary mode of dispersal. Since its introduction as a landscape plant, it has spread throughout the state. It grows moderately fast and displaces native species. Furthermore, in areas where it becomes dominant, its sharp spines, which cover all portions of its stems and twigs, create a physical barrier that impedes wildlife movement.

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Burning bush is native to Northeast Asia and central China. It was introduced into North America as a landscape specimen in the 1860's. It is very adaptable to many soil conditions and tolerates deep shade. It grows quite well in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-8. It reproduces readily, and spreads rapidly by seed. The seeds develop and mature within bright red capsules. The capsules and seeds are palatable to a variety of birds and mammals who then become the primary means in which the seeds are spread from one area to another. The seeds have a high germination percentage and are able to develop under the deep shade of heavily wooded areas. Burning bush is more commonly seen as an escapee in the southern and central portions of New Hampshire, but it also can be found in areas to the north.